

Today, there are 119 countries with democratic forms of government—almost two-thirds of the world's nations containing three-fifths of its people. For the first time in history, a majority of the world's people live under governments of their own choosing. Representative government can now be said to be a universal human value—a set of principles that are aspired to by the vast majority of people in our own country and around the world.

In 1867, Sojourner Truth told a group of friends who gathered for her 80th birthday: "It is about time for me to be going. I have been 40 years as a slave and 40 years free, and would be here 40 years more to have equal rights for all. I suppose I am kept here because something remains for me to do. I suppose I am yet to help to break the chain."

This continues to be our task today: to make sure the inalienable right to vote is never taken from anyone, and the chain remains broken for ourselves and for all humankind.

NAVAL HONORS GIVEN TO TWO SHIPS WITH CONNECTIONS TO MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I inform the House of the presentation of the Navy Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards to two Navy ships with ties to Missouri.

The U.S.S. *Harry S Truman* (CVN 75) was awarded first place in the aircraft carrier division and the U.S.S. *Jefferson City* (SSN 759) was awarded honorable mention in the submarine division.

The Ney awards were established in 1958 by the Secretary of the Navy and the International Food Service Executives Association to improve and recognize quality food service in the Navy. The awards honor overall food service excellence by evaluating key areas in customer service, restauranteurship, cleanliness and management. An independent team that reviewed food preparation, management, administration, equipment safety, sanitation, plastic waste and disposal evaluated each category.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women responsible for this exemplary service deserved to be recognized. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending congratulations to the servicepeople aboard these ships.

IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND THE HONOREE OF THEIR ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE, ISMINI MICHAELS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this congress an outstanding organization located in my district in Queens. The Pancyprian Association of

America Women's Issues Network (WIN) is dedicated to education, health, and a better quality of life for the Astoria community. This year they will be honoring Ismini Michaels at their annual Dinner Dance on March 3, 2001.

Ismini Michaels was born in Nicosia, Cyprus and graduated from the Teaching Academy of Cyprus. She was a teacher for twelve years at St. Anthony's School in Nicosia. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Michaels founded the children's choir and organized dozens of wonderful cultural events. She was a member of the "Pnevmatiki Stegi," the Choir of Cyprus, and worked at PIK, the Cypriot television station, hosting the television series Music and Dances of Cyprus.

In 1975, following the Turkish invasion, Ismini immigrated to New York City with her family in search of a better future. In New York, she worked at the Transfiguration of Christ Greek School in Corona for three years, and from 1981 through the present she has worked at the Archangel Michael Afternoon School in Roslyn, NY.

A dynamic member of the Hellenic community, Ismini has served in the Women's Division of the United Cyprians of America, the PanPaphian Association and the Cypriot Teachers Association. After the sudden death of her beloved husband, Stelios, she took on the continuation of his work with the Department of Health of Cyprus and the Greenpoint Chapter of Deborah Hospital, securing free therapy and surgeries for children with cancer.

Today Ismini is a member of the Pancyprian Association of America and its subdivision, the Women's Issues Network, as well as a member and the President of the Choir of the Pancyprian Cultural Division. She is also a member of the committee for Scholarships from the PanPaphian Association, and Treasurer of the Greek Children's Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Schneider Hospitals. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Federation of America and is a production member of the television show "H Kypros Mas" (Our Cyprus) hosted and produced by Petros Petridis, with whom she has worked with for many years organizing theatrical and cultural events.

Ismini Michaels lives in Queens and has three daughters, Maria, Andri and Noni. From her daughter Andri she has two grandchildren, Stella and Nicholas.

I wish her the best of health so that she may continue her many contributions toward her fellow man and her beloved homelands of the United States and Cyprus.

SHOULD THE U.S. HELP HAITI?

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to the attention of the House an article written by one of our former colleagues, Joseph Kennedy, II. In an article which originally appeared in the Boston Globe, Mr. Kennedy takes note of the spectacular progress that Haiti has made towards democracy. He lauds their progress though they are one of the poorest countries in the world and have environment, water, and electricity problems. Additionally, the majority of Haitians are illit-

erate. He points out that America, though mighty, needs Haiti. He goes on to applaud the recently elected President, Jean-Bertraud Aristide and urges the U.S. to support his Presidency. I submit this article for your perusal and I too join Mr. Kennedy in his conclusion that the U.S. should and must help Haiti. I also laud Secretary Powell for his comments which appeared in an Associated Press article, where the Secretary called President Aristide's commitments to carry out governmental and political reforms, "an appropriate road map." I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Mr. Kennedy's article which appeared in the Boston Globe on February 7, 2001.

US SHOULD HELP ARISTIDE REBUILD HAITI

Today's inauguration of President Jean Bertrand Aristide serves to remind us of how far Haitian Democracy has come and how far the economy has to go in order to establish peace and prosperity in our Hemisphere's poorest nation. The average Haitian lives on less than \$1 a day—the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Malnutrition is three times the regional average. More than 65 percent of Haitians cannot read or write. The same percentage survive on subsistence slash-and-burn farming that strips the landscape. The legacy of deforestation has left the mountains countryside barren and the coastal waters muddy with topsoil runoff.

Clean water and working sewage systems are largely inaccessible. In a country suffering from dangerous outbreaks of polio and drug-resistant tuberculosis, health care is a luxury. Housing in rural Haiti is crowded and inadequate. In the cardboard shacks and plastic villages of the urban slums, it's downright dangerous.

Americans have an interest in keeping Haitians in Haiti. Those who take to rafts to risk ocean crossings either die along the way or end up as refugees on our shores. The United States also has an interest in stemming the flow of drugs coming from South America by way of Haiti.

Some critics call Aristide a threat. In my work with him over the past decade, I have found him to be an honorable man who looks out for the poor and the vulnerable.

It is time to end a debate based on rumor and focus instead on Aristide's commitment to use his new term of office to reform Haitian institutions, fix the worst aspects of the last elections, and reach out to the opposition.

This commitment was made in a solemn agreement with the U.S. government last December. Haiti agreed to implement a number of important political, judicial, and economic reforms, including: Holding runoff elections to settle disputes over 10 Senate last May, establishing an electoral council with opposition parties, increasing cooperation with the United States to fight drug-trafficking and money-laundering, strengthening the judicial system and protecting human rights; and launching discussions with international financial institutions to craft strategies to achieve budgetary and economic reforms.

President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell should accept the pact signed by the Clinton administration. In addition, opposition leaders ought to work with and not obstruct the Article administration.

A key factor in raising the standard of living for ordinary Haitians is private-sector investments in Haiti. In the last year, Fusion Telecommunications, whose board I serve on, assisted the Haitian national phone company, Teleco. I was proud to help bring more than \$1 million in private investment from Fusion into Haiti. Of course, there are hurdles investing in developing countries, but these challenges should not translate

into abandonment, political or economic. The alternative to abandonment is engagement.

We can help Haiti overcome its brutal history and enter a new period of peace and prosperity. It will not happen overnight, but without the commitment of the private and public sectors, it will not happen at all.

Ten years ago, the poor of Port-au-Prince whitewashed their city walls, emblazoned them with the insignia of President Aristide's party, and cheered as their president-elect rode to his inauguration.

The second Aristide government is poised to accept the world's help to build a new Haiti. Turning our backs will simply create a new crisis. The Haitian people possess vast resources of spirit and ingenuity. Unleashing their economic potential will build a stronger nation, create new partnerships in the region, and redeem the promise of democracy so long desired to Haiti.

IN HONOR OF JOAN MATULA ON
THE OCCASION OF HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ms. Joan Matula, who

celebrates her 90th birthday this weekend on February 19, 2001. Ms. Matula leads a rich and wonderful life and contributes greatly to the community in which she lives. She is a model of civic virtue and community leadership and a beacon of hope for all of us who desire greater participation in the public sphere where the concerns of the many come before the demands of the few.

Ms. Matula is a founder, a stalwart member, and a great leader of the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association (RISA). Founded in 1976, RISA brings the Roosevelt Island senior community together to make the island a better place to live and to enjoy the company of neighbors.

As a co-founder of RISA in 1976, Ms. Matula has served in many capacities, including service as the organization's president for four terms and vice-president for two terms. She knows well the needs of the senior community on Roosevelt Island and the best approaches to meet those needs. Believe me Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt Island has seldom, very seldom witnessed a seniors event, or even a general island activity, parade or public event that Ms. Matula has not attended. She literally ran the senior center for six years and has represented RISA at the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RRA) since 1977, bringing the concern of the seniors to the attention of leading figures in the community.

Ms. Matula has been involved in Roosevelt Island community concerns since the beginning. She worked at the Goldwater hospital as a medical secretary until her retirement in 1976. While there Ms. Matula helped residents improve and maintain their health on numerous occasions. She even led the Roosevelt Island nutrition program for eight years, focusing on the prevention of illness and the health of everyone on the island.

Joan has always cared about her country and has consistently participated in the electoral process. She served as a member of the New York City election Board for 20 years and encouraged Roosevelt Island residents to vote in numerous elections.

Ms. Matula is truly a remarkable person. She is always there whenever there is an event to promote on Roosevelt Island or an idea upon which to build. I consider Joan a very dear friend and, as many residents of Roosevelt Island know, to know Joan is to love her. Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Joan Matula and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the contributions she has made to the community of Roosevelt Island, to the great City of New York and to our country.